



National Marine Protected Areas Center Information Exchange for Marine Educators Archive of MPA Information

MPA Facts

Federal MPA Legislative Authorities

There are many different kinds of marine protected areas created under different local, state, tribal, or federal authorities. The National MPA Center has a quick guide to some of the legislation that provides the authority for various federal agencies and government entities to establish, manage, monitor and/or evaluate marine protected areas at the federal level. More extensive information, with links to the legislation, can be found on the Ocean Planning Information System (OPIS) Legislative Framework page. For more information, check out http://mpa.gov/mpa_programs/mpa_legislation.html and <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/opis/html/legal.htm>.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

The Great Barrier Reef is widely acclaimed as one of the world's great natural treasures. In 1981, the Great Barrier Reef gained international recognition through its inscription on the World Heritage List. The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is the world's largest, and one of only a few World Heritage Areas that satisfy all four natural World Heritage Criteria (represent major stages of earth's history, represent significant ecological and biological evolutionary processes, contain superlative natural phenomena or beauty, and contain significant natural habitats for conservation). On July 1 2004, the Australian Commonwealth Government implemented a new zoning plan for the Great Barrier Reef which established a comprehensive network of protected areas covering more than 33 percent of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The charter of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Education Unit is to deliver education programs and activities about the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area throughout Australia. To meet this charter, the Education Unit has developed a range of programs and educational activities, including ReefEd, a dynamic educational website featuring a visual library, online curriculum units, the Great Barrier Reef Explorer, and a page designed specifically for student inquiry. For more information, check out <http://www.reefed.edu.au/>.

For more information on the marine park, ReefEd, and ReefHQ, check out <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/>.

MPA.GOV Website Redesign

The MPA Center's Website has undergone an extensive redesign and is now easier to use than ever. In addition to updated information, we have added new sections on MPA Programs, Information and Tools, and Regional Information Centers. New features on the site include a common terminology and classification system for U.S. marine protected areas in the Great Lakes, coastal, and marine environment; expanded library search capabilities; and an extended Information and Tools section with fact sheets, press releases, presentations, Frequently Asked Questions, and much more.

The Education section, under Information & Tools, now hosts the current month's edition of this Information Exchange for Marine Educators, along with printable archives of all of the information shared to date. Future plans include making the archived information more user-friendly through the addition of search capabilities for all of the different programs and opportunities. For a direct link to the materials from the Information Exchange, browse to

http://www.mpa.gov/information_tools/education.html#InfoExchange . For more information, check out www.mpa.gov .

National Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee Meeting

The Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee, managed jointly by the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior, will hold its third meeting April 6-8, 2004, Key Largo, Florida. Attendance is open to the public, but registration is required at the meeting site. Public comment periods are scheduled for April 6 and April 8. The Committee has formed subcommittees on the National System of MPAs, MPA Stewardship and Effectiveness, and National and Regional Coordination of MPA Efforts. For more information, check out <http://mpa.gov/fac/fac.html> .

New Canadian MPA: The Gully

MPAs are being used worldwide as an ecosystem management tool. A neighboring example is the Gully, Canada's first east coast MPA designated under the Oceans Act, located off Nova Scotia, near Sable Island. It is the largest submarine canyon in eastern North America. The Gully contains a rich diversity of marine habitats and species, including deep-sea corals and the northern bottlenose whale. The website contains audio, pictures, and videos in addition to background information. For more information, check out <http://www.mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/e/essim/essim-gully-e.html> .

On-Line Inventory of Marine Managed Areas of the United States

The MPA Center is developing an on-line inventory of federal, state, and tribal marine managed areas in the U.S. The website currently includes information about 328 sites, and an on-going data collection process is adding new sites and information all the time. Check out the inventory at http://mpa.gov/mpaservices/mpa_inventory.html .

What is a Marine Protected Area?

The term "marine protected area" is a broad umbrella term used to describe an area-based management approach used in marine, Great Lakes, and near-shore waters. The federal

government, in Executive Order #13158, defines MPAs as:

“...any area of the marine environment that has been reserved by Federal, State, territorial, tribal, or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protection for part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein.”

Less than 1 percent of US waters are no-take areas. Instead, the majority of U.S. MPAs are multiple use conservation areas that often permit both consumptive and nonconsumptive activities, such as fishing, diving, boating and swimming.

Examples of multiple use MPAs include most national marine sanctuaries, national estuarine research reserves, national parks and wildlife refuges with marine components, and many state underwater parks. These multiple use MPAs function both to protect ecosystems, and, at times, to support sustainable fisheries while allowing residents and other users to enjoy the resource.

For more information about this and other MPA facts, subscribe the MPA Center's monthly *Connections*, by sending an email request to Dana.Topousis@noaa.gov .

Notable Additions to the MPA Library

The main MPA Library website is http://mpa.gov/mpaservices/mpa_library.html

Great Lakes Shipwreck Bibliography

The Great Lakes hold an unknown quantity of historic archaeological sites, including shipwrecks. These shipwrecks are part of the maritime history of the United States, and many are in cultural marine protected areas. A list of publications on the shipwrecks in and around Michigan and Lake Superior is currently available in the MPA Virtual Library (use the search engine, keyword: shipwreck). The library has a preliminary bibliography of maritime archaeological and historical publications held in the Library of Michigan and the Office of the State Archaeologist, Michigan Historical Center; direct access to this abstract is at

<http://www2.mpa.gov/mpa/mpaservices/library/Action.Lasso?-database=mpalib&-layout=tableview&-response=mpadisplay.lasso&-recordID=36900&-search> .

Halsey, John R., 2003, *A preliminary bibliography of maritime archaeological and historical publications held in the Library of Michigan and the Office of the State Archaeologist, Michigan Historical Center*, Lansing, MI

How is Your MPA Doing?

NOAA, the World Commission on Protected Areas, and the World Wildlife Fund have published four case studies that test the MPA management effectiveness guidebook, *How is Your MPA Doing?* Check out how the Miramare Natural Marine Reserve in Trieste, Italy, fared with their evaluation at <http://mpa.gov/mpaservices/library/notables.html> .

Contantini, Marco, Maurizio Spoto, Gonzalo Cid. (2003) Miramare: a demonstration case: application of the WCPA-Marine/WWF Guidebook on Evaluating Effective Management in MPAs.

Involving the Public: Legal Requirements for Public Participation

This reference guide highlights legislative mandates related to public participation in environmental decision-making. The guide is intended to help coastal and marine managers in designing and conducting a participatory process.

NOAA National MPA Center Training and Technical Assistance Institute. Involving the Public: Legal Requirements for Public Participation. Charleston, South Carolina, 2004.

<http://www.mpa.gov/redirect.html?newURL=http://www.csc.noaa.gov/mpa/RegulatoryRequirements.pdf> .

Ishmael's Inclinations: Non-Use Values of Marine Protected Areas

The authors describe four important non-use values to consider when considering MPAs: option value, quasi-option value, bequest value, and existence value. The direct link to this paper is at <http://unicorn.csc.noaa.gov/mpa/barrnuv.pdf>

Barr, B. W., Ehler R., and Wiley, P. 2003. "Ishmael's Inclinations: Non-Use Values of Marine Protected Areas." Chapter 12 in: *The Full Value of Parks: From Economics to the Intangible*, pp 157-68. Rowman and Littlefield Press, Lanham, Maryland.

Marine Reserves as a Tool for Ecosystem-Based Management: The Potential Importance of Megafauna

Marine predators attract significant attention in ocean conservation planning and are therefore often used politically to promote reserve designation. This article discusses whether their ecology and life history can help provide a rigorous ecological foundation for marine reserve design.

Hooker, S. K. and Gerber, L. R. (2004) *Marine Reserves as a Tool for Ecosystem-Based Management: The Potential Importance of Megafauna*. Bioscience 54 (1) 27-39.

Southeast Regional Marine Plan: Implementing Australia's Oceans Policy in the Southeast Marine Region

Australia's National Oceans Office has released the first in a series of regional plans to ensure the protection and sustainable development of its vast ocean territory. The plan, downloadable from the website, addresses the southeast region's rich biodiversity, and the economic, social, and cultural values important to the region's communities.

South-east Regional Marine Plan: Implementing Australia's Oceans Policy in the South-east Marine Region (2004)

http://www.oceans.gov.au/pdf/SERMP/NOO1_Oceans.pdf

State Policies and Programs Related to Marine Managed Areas: Issues and Recommendations for a National System

The Coastal States Organization, in cooperation with the National Marine Protected Areas Center, conducted research and interviews related to state-level marine managed

areas (MMAs) and the potential for future federal/state coordination within a national MPA system. This report characterizes existing MMA policies and programs at the state level; presents the potential implications of the proposed national system of MPAs for coastal states; and proposes recommendations toward an effective national MPA system for consideration by both state and federal officials. Please contact John Lopez at john.lopez@noaa.gov for more information. The direct link to this paper is at http://www2.mpa.gov/mpa/mpaservices/virtual_library/publications.lasso.

Davis, B., Lopez, J. and Finch, A., 2004, *State Policies and Programs Related to Marine Managed Areas: Issues and Recommendations for a National System*, Washington, DC